

STORY 90.

MOHD TUGHLAK THE MAD TYRANT BOWS
BEFORE THE LAW.

IN spite of his disregard for human life and his tyranny which was probably due to a strain of insanity in his mental composition. Mohd Tughlak had to bow down before the law. Once he caused a Hindu to be killed without a cause. The brother of the slain person brought the matter before the Quazi who issued formal summons to the Sultan. In compliance with the summons he came before the court. The Quazi heard both sides and finding the Sultan guilty convicted him, and laid before him two alternatives—death sentence or private settlement with the complainant. The Sultan paid a large sum to the man who agreed to withdraw the case. Thus the Sultan escaped the death penalty.

STORY 91.

HOW SIKANDER LODHI WAS PREVENTED FROM DESTROYING A HINDU TEMPLE.

ONCE Sikander Lodhi was told that at Thaneswar was a great Hindu temple where idols were worshipped. Being ignorant of teachings of Islam he thought it would be an act of great merit to destroy that temple. When his intention became known one of the Ulma of his court said to him "Listen O king! Islam does not permit us to destroy the places of worship of other religions and therefore you must desist from carrying out this intention." Being filled with a false religious zeal the king was very angry when he heard this advice and angrily said to the scholar "You a Muslim Divine countenance the worship of idols, I command you to cite your authority." Upon this the scholar said without any fear. "Sir you are not only forbidden to destroy Hindu shrines, but you are enjoined to protect them if another threatens to destroy them. In this respect a Muslim Mosque, a Hindu temple and a Christian church stand on the same level. As a Muslim you are bound to respect the religious sentiments of all your subjects be they Muslims or Hindus." In support of his contention he quoted authority from the Muslim law, and was supported by other scholars. The result was that the Sultan desisted from his purpose.